

Trip Report
2004 Washington, D. C. Briefing Meetings
March 10 through March 16, 2004
Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program
And
San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program



Prepared by John Shields, Chairman, Management Committee
Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program

Disclaimer: This trip report has been prepared based on notes and recollections made during the course of the 2004 visits. Opinions expressed are solely those of the author and do not constitute those of the programs' participants or of the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program or the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program.

Synopsis and Purpose: From March 10th through March 16th, representatives of the non-federal participants in the Upper Colorado Endangered Fish Recovery Program and the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Programs¹ met with staff of the Congressional delegations for the States of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming, and with Congressional committee staff for the authorizing and appropriations committees having jurisdiction over the Bureau of Reclamation and Fish and Wildlife Service to brief them on the status of the two endangered fish recovery programs and to seek their support for Program funding included in the President's proposed fiscal year 2005 budget. In addition, briefing meetings were held with select Administration officials and several nongovernmental entities. During each of the meetings those representing the two recovery programs addressed three matters:

1. Status of the Upper Colorado Endangered Fish Recovery Program and the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program, the programs' accomplishments with special emphasis on accomplishments during the year that has passed since last year's visits in March 2003,
2. Fiscal Year 2005 funding needs – including those funding needs of the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program and San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program for which funding line-items were included in the President's Fiscal Year 2005 recommended budgets for the USFWS and the Bureau of Reclamation – and the \$691,000 for "Colorado River Fish" USFWS "recovery" funding that had been zeroed out of the Department of Interior's budget request by the Office of Management and Budget and thus is NOT in the President's budget.
3. Our progress in implementing the provisions of Public Law 106-392, as amended by P.L. 107-375, authorizing cost sharing for the remaining capital construction projects for the two recovery programs and providing a stabilized source of annual "base" funding, and to report on the status of the States' cost-sharing being contributed pursuant to this law.

At each meeting with Congressional Delegation staff members, our group representing the two recovery programs made an identical request – we asked the staff member to request that his or her boss affirm their support by signing onto joint-delegation letters addressed to the House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development and the Subcommittee on Interior and Related Agencies (expressing support and urging the appropriation of specific Bureau of Reclamation and USFWS funding amounts for these two recovery programs). Our group recognized the importance of past funding support from the Congress as being a key element of the progress that these two programs are making and explained the continuing need for funding and the uses and benefits being obtained with Program funding. The four individual letters were circulated among the four States' Congressional and Senate delegation members. A key tool in making that request was our presentation to the staff member of copies of funding support letters submitted to each of the appropriations subcommittees by Governors Owens, Leavitt, Richardson and Freudenthal were provided at each meeting. It is particularly important to making our case asking Members of Congress to sign on to the joint delegation

¹ Program participants represented at most of the briefing meetings were the four involved States of Colorado, Utah, Wyoming and New Mexico, water users and environmental groups. A Fish and Wildlife Service employee participated in some of the briefings for the sole purpose of answering technical questions concerning the fishes' life history, habitat needs, the species' recovery goals, Program accomplishments and anticipated activities.

letters that we have letters from each of the Governors (this was the second year we had letters from all four). In addition, a listing of the letters of support that have submitted by municipalities and water user organizations was distributed at each of the meetings.

We were more successful than last year - on the joint House delegation letters we obtained the signatures of 13 of 14 of the U.S. Representatives from Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming (Rep. Hefley again declined). On the Senate side, four of the eight Senators (Bennett, Hatch, Bingaman and Allard) signed the two funding support letters (Senator Domenici and Senator Campbell have a standing policy of not signing appropriation support letters as they are on the Appropriations Committee but we were assured of their assistance and support). We received a number of compliments for our efforts – including the Program’s successes, the quality of the briefing materials and the presentations made, the approaches we are using and our repeated visits to these offices each year. In particular, we noted that none of the Congressional Delegation offices “blinked” when we asked them to sign onto the letters addressed to the Senate and House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee even though the letters request \$691,000 of USFWS “recovery” funding for the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program that is not in the President’s FY2005 budget.

We are most appreciative of the efforts of those staff members who take on the task of circulating our joint delegation letters for us each year. The letter circulation process, accomplished by Trevor Kolego of Congress Chris Cannon’s staff and Luke Johnson and Veronica Wissel of Senator Bennett’s office, went very smoothly and was accomplished, we believe, in record time.

The Congressional Staff Appreciation Luncheon held at Tortilla Coast Restaurant on Friday, March 14th was our second effort at holding this event and was quite successful. This event gives us the opportunity to “give back” something when we are making our annual request to our Congressional delegations; provides additional good will and facilitates the development of relationships with those with whom we meet; and allows us to be able to provide a most interesting and informative presentation on nonnative fish removal efforts within the Upper Colorado River Basin. A thank you is extended to Tom Nesler, Aquatic Biologist, Colorado Division of Wildlife, for doing a very good job with both the PowerPoint presentation and his spoken remarks.

Copies of the briefing booklet and its enclosures have been widely distributed among Program participants – we anticipate that it will also be available for downloading from the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program's Web page (<http://www.r6.fws.gov/crrip/doc/dc/Highlights03-04.pdf>). The executed joint delegation funding support letters signed by the members of the Congressional delegations of the States of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming, along with the letters of support submitted by Governors Owen, Leavitt, Richardson and Freudenthal are attached to this report.

In summary, the trip went better than we anticipated it would and we believe all of the objectives of the trip were accomplished. A list of those who participated in the meetings/briefings is provided below. Not all participants were in Washington, D.C. during the entire period of the trip nor did all participate in each meeting, nonetheless the roster provides a listing of all who participated in one or more meetings.

Trip Participants:

The group representing the two recovery programs consisted of:

- John Shields – Wyoming State Engineer’s Office and Chairman, Management Committee
- Darin Bird, Utah Department of Natural Resources
- Robert King – Utah Division of Water Resources
- Tom Blickensderfer – Colorado Department of Natural Resources
- Tom Nesler – Colorado Division of Wildlife
- Joel Harris – Governor Owens’ Washington DC Office
- Randy Kirkpatrick – San Juan Water Commission
- Tom Pitts – Upper Colorado River Basin and San Juan River Basin Water Users’ Representative
- Tom Iseman – The Nature Conservancy
- Robert Muth – USFWS – Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program Director

Synopsis of Meetings and Contacts:

The following provides a chronological listing of each meeting held and of additional contacts made. The following notes specific requests, points of discussion or other information worthy of note for future reference, including necessary follow-up that should and will occur.

Recap of Meetings Held March 10 through March 16, 2004

Date	Time	Meeting With	Affiliation	Office Location	Phone Number	Fax Number	E-Mail Address	Comments
March 10th	8:00 - 8:30 a.m.	Briefings' Pre-meeting	Briefing Trip Participants	Room 109	543-6000	547-0883	www.capitolhillsuites.com	Chance to get Colorado's letters for copying and to confer about the need to reschedule the meeting with the DOI Budget Office
	1:00 p.m.	Michael Hickey Eric Hansen Rick Mertins	EOP, Office of Management and Budget, Natural Resources Programs, Interior Branch	725 17 th Street, N.W.	395-4806, extension 9		Michael_hickey@omb.eop.gov	In a word: disappointing
	2:00 p.m.	Mitch Butler	Rep. Scott McInnis	CH-320	225-4671	226-0622	Mitch.butler@mail.house.gov	Not any doubt whatsoever that Rep. McInnis would sign the letters.
	2:30 p.m.	Stan Sloss	Rep. Mark Udall	CH-115	225-2161	226-7840	Stan.sloss@mail.house.gov	Short & effective meeting
	3:30 p.m.	Rep. Bob Beauprez and Bruce "Fez" Miller	Rep. Bob Beauprez	CH-511	225-2645	225-5278	Bruce.miller@mail.house.gov	Sat down with Rep. Beauprez for ~ 20 minutes – appointment with him secured on the airline flight out to D.C.
	3:45 p.m.	Justin Harding Amy Boyle Trevor Kolego Cody Stewart	Rep. Ron Bishop Rep. Jim Matheson Rep. Chris Cannon Western Caucus	CH-124 CH-410 <i>CH-118</i>	225-0453 225-3011 225-7751 226-5793	225-5857 225-5638 225-5629	Justin.harding@mail.house.gov Amy.boyle@mail.house.gov Trevor.kolego@mail.house.gov Codyb.stewart@mail.house.gov	This joint meeting went well. Trevor was very interested in hearing about our reception at OMB and requested follow-up info about OMB and DOI Budget Office
	4:30 p.m.	Ricardo Bernal (filling in for Matt Meagher)	Rep. Steve Pearce	LH-1408	225-2365	225-4975	Matt.meagher@mail.house.gov	Went well
	5:15 p.m.	Susie Gorden	Rep. Diana DeGette	LH-1530	225-4431	225-5657	Susie.Gorden@mail.house.gov	Very supportive
March 11th	8:15 a.m.	Loretta Beaumont Michael Stephens	House Interior and Related Agencies Approps. Subcommittee	RH-B-308	225-3081 225-3481	225-9069	Loretta.Beaumont@mail.house.gov Michael.stephens@mail.house.gov	Beaumont very animated about the 05 budget situation and told us this was a common sense and basic fairness issue. Indicated her strong support. Encouraged us to circulate joint delegation letters to Sec. Norton in late May. Dropped briefing booklet off

								for Stephens (unable to attend)
	9:00 a.m.	Dennis Ellis	Rep. Barbara Cubin	LH-1114	225-2311	225-3057	Dennis.ellis@mail.house.gov	Rock solid support
	9:40 a.m.	Mac Zimmerman	Rep. Tom Tancredo	LH-1130	225-7882	226-4623	Mac.Zimmerman@mail.house.gov	Zimmerman told us his boss would sign the letters
	10:15 a.m.	Krista Brinkley	Rep. Mar. Musgrave	LH-1208	225-4676	225-5870	Krista.Brinkley@mail.house.gov	Supportive; asked specific questions about where the USFWS funding should go away from in order to restore FY05 UCREFRP funding
	10:50 a.m.	Mike Collins (LD) and Envir. LA Johanna Polsenberg	Rep. Tom Udall	LH-1414	225-6190	225-1331	Michael.Collins@mail.house.gov	Went very well – advised that Rep. Udall would sign the letters
	11:30 a.m.	Shelly Randel Mike Conner Thomas H. Lillie Eric Webb Joaquin Sanchez Tammy Perrin Roger Cockrell	Sen. Pete Domenici, Senator Jeff Bingaman and Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Senate Energy and Water Development Approps. Subcommittee	Meeting in SD-312 SD-127 SD-156	224-4971 224-7260 224-8119	224-6163 224-6835	Michael_conner@energy.senate.gov Tom_lillie@energy.senate.gov Shelly_randel@energy.senate.gov Joaquin_sanchez@domenici.senate.gov Tammy_perrin@appro.senate.gov Roger_cockrell@appro.senate.gov	Good meeting as always. Lillie met with Lynn Scarlett that afternoon – told her about our desire to meet with DOI Budget Office personnel and Scarlett committed to ensuring the meeting would be held on March 16 th – Lillie provided both assistance and advice. Talked about many things.
	1:30 p.m.	Luke Johnson Veronica Wissel	Sen. Bob Bennett	SD-431	224-5444	228-1168	Luke_johnson@bennett.senate.gov Veronica_wissel@bennett.senate.gov	Had to check whether back office was willing to circulate letters –willing to do so – very efficient once we connected (Johnson out on maternity leave for a few days after the meeting).
	2:15 p.m.	J.J. Brown	Sen. Orrin Hatch	SH-104	224-5251	224-6331	Jared_brown@hatch.senate.gov	Always a pleasure to meet with J.J.
	2:45 p.m.	Craig Ferguson	Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell	SR-380	224-5852	228-4609	Craig_ferguson@campbell.senate.gov	Stated that Sen. Campbell will assist us in the approps. Process in obtaining restoration of the USFWS "recovery" funding
	3:30 p.m.	Cory Gardner	Sen. Wayne Allard	SD-521	224-5941	224-6471	Cory_gardner@allard.senate.gov	Cory told us to tell Leif Fonnesbeck that the UCREFRP is one of Senator Allard's highest funding priorities!
	4:00 p.m.	Leif Fonnesbeck	Majority Staff Member for Senate Interior & RA Approps. Subcommittee	SD-132	224-7233 224-2168 224-7209	228-4532 228-2345	Leif_fonnesbeck@appro.senate.gov Brooke_Thomas@appro.senate.gov	Outstanding meeting. Leif provided Briefing booklet to Brooke Thomas.

	4:45 p.m.	Colin Hunter	Rep. Heather Wilson	CH-318	225-6316	225-4975	Colin.hunter@mail.house.gov	Kirkpatrick led the meeting.
	5:30 p.m.	Larry Hojo	Rep. Joel Hefley	RH-2372	225-4422	225-1942	Larry.hojo@mail.house.gov	Different than before but outcome was the same.
Friday March 12th	9:00 a.m.	Dixon Butler (Minority Staff Director)	House Energy & Water Develop. Approps. Subcommittee	LH-1001 (directory is wrong)	225-3481		Dixon.butler@mail.house.gov	Went well.
	9:30 a.m.	David Whaley Bonnie Bruce Dave Jansen Catherine Ware Lori Sonkin	House Resources Committee Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife and Ocean Subcommittee,	186 FHOB	226-0200	225-1542	Dave.whaley@mail.house.gov Bonnie.bruce@mail.house.gov Dave.jansen@mail.house.gov Catherine.ware@mail.house.gov Lori.sonkin@mail.house.gov	We arrived a bit late but the meeting went quite well. Nesler knew the answers to their questions.
Friday March 12th	10:00 a.m.	Joshua Johnson Craig Anderson Kiel Weaver Steve Lanich	House Resources Committee Water and Power Subcommittee	LH-1324 186 FHOB	225-2761 226-2311	225-5929	Joshua.Johnson@mail.house.gov craig.a@mail.house.gov kiel.weaver@mail.house.gov steve.lanich@mail.house.gov	Went very well.
LUNCH	11:45-1:30 p.m.	Congressional Staff Appreciation Luncheon	400 FIRST STREET, S.E. Just down the hill from the Capitol South Metro Station	Tortilla Coast	546-6768		Lunch provided at no cost consisting of three beef, chicken and cheese enchiladas served with rice and beans; soda and tea and assorted dessert bars. Runs from 11:45 to 1:30 p.m. Come late and/or leave early if need be. Short presentation (with PowerPoint) and round-table discussion concerning the political and practical challenges, opportunities for success and pitfalls for failure in conducting, large-scale management and control of sportfish to benefit endangered native fish species	Thanks to the water users for paying the bill to hold this luncheon. It was very relaxed, a good opportunity for some one-on-one discussion and getting to know some of the folks better, and the presentation and Nesler's dry humor were appreciated by all.
	1:45 p.m.	Celia Wallace	Sen. Craig Thomas	SD-307	224-6441	224-1724	Celia_wallace@thomas.senate.gov	She knows.
	2:45 p.m.	Dallas Scholes	Sen. Mike Enzi	SR-379A	224-3424	228-0359	Dallas_scholes@enzi.senate.gov	Shields held a one-on-one meeting with Scholes (Dallas had been meeting with Secretary Norton at the time of our meeting with Celia)
	3:20 p.m.	Jani Revier	<i>Western Caucus</i> Rep. Butch Otter	LH-1711	225-6611	225-3029	Jani.Revier@mail.house.gov	Left briefing booklet for Jani (did not respond to numerous telephone messages)
March 15th	10:00 a.m. (One hour)	David P. Smith Steve Williams Clint Riley Steve Guertin	Deputy Asst Secretary FWP; Director, USFWS Special Asst to the USFWS Director	3239 MIB 3256 MIB 3254 MIB	208-4416 208-4717 (Pat K.)		David_p_smith@ios.doi.gov Steven_a_williams@fws.gov Clint_riley@fws.gov Patricia_kennedy@fws.gov	This was a very positive meeting while we were at the same time able to deliver our funding message.
	11:00	Mike Soukup Sharon Kliwinski Cliff McCreedy	National Park Service	3004 MIB	208-6843 208-3884 Sharon: 513-7181	219-0910	Terry_hall@nps.gov (Comm. Office) David_barna@nps.gov Sharon_kliwinski@nps.gov Cliff_mccreedy@nps.gov	Enjoyable. They tried to outdo us with giving us nice things in return.
	1:15 p.m.	Greg Schildwachter (Subcommittee Staff Director)	Fisheries, Wildlife and Water Subcommittee of the Senate Environment and	SD-410	224-6176	224-5167	Greg_schildwachter@epw.senate.gov	Wish all of the meetings could go like this one. Greg brought up CCAAs as being a

			Public Works Committee					newly available tool for ESA issues. Stated he would be glad to speak up for our programs in the appropriations process as the spokesperson for the authorizing committee.
	2:00 p.m.	Chris Heggem, Envir. L.A.	Sen. Conrad Burns	SD-187	224-2644	224-8594	Chris_heggem@burns.senate.gov	Left briefing booklet at the front desk, after leaving several voice mails.
	3:15 p.m.	John Baughman, Exec. Vice President David Walker, Deputy Legislative Director	International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies	444 North Capitol Street, NW, Suite 544	624-7890	624-7891	Baughman@sso.org gtaylor@sso.org	Baughman provided copies of the full IAFWA funding recommendations – lots of support and encouragement
	4:00 p.m.	Kevin Moran Shanna Brown Susan Shipman	Western Governors Association and National Governor's Association	444 North Capitol Street, NW, Suite 388	624-5402		kmoran@sso.org skbrown@sso.org shipman@sso.org	Good meeting and glad we could interact with Shipman who prepared NGA's issue brief on "Towards State Leadership to Manage Endangered Species"
March 16th	10:00 a.m.	Bennett Raley Tom Weimer Jason Peltier Mark Limbaugh Bruce Moore, Trudy Harlow Robert Wolf	Asst. Secretary W/S, Deputy Asst. Secretary W/S Bureau of Reclamation Deputy Commissioner for External and Intergovernmental Affairs;	7069 MIB	513-0615 513-0667 513-4182 (Moore)		braley@ios.doi.gov tweimer@ios.doi.gov jpeltier@ios.doi.gov limbaugh@usbr.gov wrinne@usbr.gov rwolf@usbr.gov dlawler@usbr.gov bmoore@usbr.gov	Raley made several requests of our Program – briefing materials on CD and laminated fact sheet. He also requested a program funding one-pager for discussions with Scarlett and Manson (pending). Told us we should take credit for being one of the success stories that has inspired the Water 2025 Initiative.
	11:00 a.m.	Peter Bower, CFO and two others	National Fish and Wildlife Foundation	1130 Connecticut Ave, N.W., Suite 900	857-0166		bower@nfwf.org	Berry and Brunner had left on travel to Spokane – went well
	NOON	Beth Lowell Ed Lytwak	Endangered Species Coalition	1101 14 th Street, N.W., Suite 1001	408-7707		esc@stopextinction.org elytwak@stopextinction.org	Very supportive of our Program and complimentary of our briefing materials
	1:30 p.m.	Dennis Kern (Kevin Cook has now been named as the Clerk)	House Energy and Water Development Approps. Subcommittee	RH-2362	225-3421	225-1566	Dennis.kern@mail.house.gov	Dennis had read the briefing materials and clearly grasped the details.
	2:30 p.m.	Pam Haze Willie Taylor	Deputy Director, DOI Budget Office; Director of Office of	Room 5120, Main	208-4203		Pam_haze@ios.doi.gov willie_taylor@ios.doi.gov cindy_ryberg@ios.doi.gov	Haze said we made "a very compelling case

		Cindy Ryberg Mark Davis Catrina Martin Latricia Hall Patrick Joos	Director of Office of Enviro. Policy and Compliance; DOI Budget Analysts; FWS Budget Office	Main Interior Building	208- 5308		mark_davis@ios.doi.gov catrina_martin@ios.doi.gov latricia_hall@ios.doi.gov Patrick_joos@fws.gov	compelling case for Program funding." Glad we had Rep. Rahall's letter to House I&RA Approps. Subcommittee Chairman to hand out at the meeting.
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Conclusions and Recommendations:

Our group representing the two recovery programs again confirmed the vital importance of annually visiting Congressional Committee and Congressional delegation members and/or their staffs to keep the Programs' needs and ongoing progress in mind. Staff turnover occurs from year to year. Face-to-face meetings continue to have no substitute. The participation of each of the non-federal participants in these briefings is quite important (we need CREDA and the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission to participate next year). The weekend break during the middle of the trip is a necessity based on the views of those who actually participate; so as to be ready to go at it again "fresh" on Monday morning and to give our efforts the requisite flexibility to reschedule meetings (at least once each year), and to develop contingencies to deal with the unexpected and unanticipated that are always present.

There are five Assistant Secretaries within the Department of the Interior - for many years we have only been attempting to meet with the Asst. Secretaries for Water and Science and Fish, Wildlife and Parks. It became clear when the President's budget for FY 2005 was released that we needed to go meet with the folks in the Policy, Management and Budget shop within the DOI. Having done so this year, we recommend that we continue to schedule meetings with PMB staff each year. We probably erred in thinking that Water and Science and Fish, Wildlife and Parks would "carry the day" with the sister shop for us. In terms of strategically ensuring funding in future fiscal years - a subject we discussed with Greg Schildwachter - we need to meet with PMB's top officials each year to ensure that we remain "in sight and in mind." We should be more diligent and aggressive in seeking out the opportunities that are there for developing/submitting questions for appropriations subcommittee hearings where Administration officials responsible for requesting appropriations for our Program will be testifying.

We need to ask our Congressional Delegation members in late May to sign onto joint delegation letters addressed to the Secretary of the Interior reminding the Secretary of her commitment to the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program as embodied in the Extension of the Cooperative Agreement and requesting that the "recovery" funding for USFWS participation in the Program be included in the President's Fiscal Year 2006 budget. This suggestion by a House appropriations subcommittee staff member in response to our question of what can/should we do to help assure future fiscal year funding was broached at each succeeding meeting with Congressional Delegation staff and all seemed willing to do so. We have since discussed this with others having experience in this arena and they confirm the wisdom of sending such a letter - one colleague has deemed it "critical" that we do so. The letter should be drafted in the very near future and we should start the process of requesting each Congressional office representing Colorado, Utah and Wyoming to sign the letter. A cover letter should also be prepared that establishes the need for the joint letter and its anticipated effect and the benefits to each office of sending same (chiefly, that we won't be seeking their support for restoring funding (read "write-in") to a prior fiscal year's level).

Sending the briefing materials via e-mail (briefing book as an Acrobat file and backgrounder as a Word file) in advance of meetings is useful and will be continued. This is a meaningful courtesy for the very busy people with whom we meet and shortens the time required to explain our Programs' objectives and operations - making for better meetings with more informed staff members, and helps our group stay on the established trip itinerary schedule. Sending our materials in advance paid BIG dividends this year in that the timing and sending of Rep. Rahall's March 2nd letter to House Interior Approps. Subcommittee Chairman Taylor (faxed to the USFWS Regional Office on March 12th) was in part prompted by our e-mailed request for March 12th meetings with the Subcommittees' staff and discussion of the budgetary dilemma in the e-mail and attachments sent to the Resources Subcommittee offices on February 26th. We were able to hand out copies of Rep. Rahall's letter (and amplify its message) at each of the March 15-16th meetings.

Speaking of the schedule, it appears that the time estimations while on the House side are about right, but we need to schedule the Senate side meetings and especially those off of the Hill a bit farther apart. Ideally, we would be able to set more consecutive meetings (in a row) within the Main Interior Building, but the scheduling difficulty is compounded in that we are trying to get four or five or more folks to each of those meetings at MIB, whereas on the Hill or elsewhere we are typically meeting with only one or two people.

The attendance at the Congressional Staff Appreciation Luncheon was good; however, we had heard from more folks that they planned to attend than actually made it to the Tortilla Coast (we had 20 people including those in our briefing group in attendance and the room capacity is 30). The Powerpoint presentation made by Tom Nesler was excellent (thanks, Tom, for being an important part of the group!). An invitation document – sent out in advance of the luncheon or distributed at the Delegation staff meetings would be a nice touch in future years. We recommend that we continue with holding the luncheon – if there is another venue (don't know of one but we will be looking – the Thai Restaurant may have a back room) as close by it might be worthwhile to try it so as to avoid the “same-old” year after year – but folks seem to like both the food and the atmosphere at the TC.

We should make the effort to meet with staff of the National Governors Association every year. The meeting demonstrated that NGA was not really aware of our Program even though they have marshaled considerable attention on ESA issues in the past year. Getting in to see Congressional staff members from other states who may be in a position to assist us or whom we feel we would like them to know more about our efforts (such as Burns' staff, Taylor's staff, Otter's staff) is problematic – they simply don't recognize us as a constituent to whom the favor of returning a phone call is a really high priority. It is recommended that we enlist the assistance of one of the regional or national groups such as NGA, WGA or the IAFWA – or make direct use of USFWS and/or USBR Congressional Liaison staff to help us get those meetings set – if we want to try to hold them in the future. We as the Management Committee should assess this matter further – as we are putting out far more effort to try to get these meetings that don't ever come off set then what our returns are.

It has been suggested that our briefing booklet has grown too long and too elaborate and should be updated for next year's efforts. We are routinely told (Bruce Moore of the USBR and Shelly Randel being two who come to mind) that we do about the best job on our briefing material of anyone who comes in. The pockets in the booklet allow us maximum flexibility in terms of adding/subtracting materials on the fly depending on whom we are going to meet with. There are other types of folders that may allow us the same flexibility and with the creative use of index tabs we may be able to create a better product for next year's briefings. As much as we love the front and back covers of the briefing book, we have now used the same one for five consecutive years. We need to demonstrate that we as a Program have moved on in those five years – we have made enormous strides – and accordingly update our briefing document. Of course, this is much easier to write about than it is to actually do, but we urge the Management Committee and the Information and Education Committee to devote the attention and resources needed to reformat, simplify and, while building on the successful product we have been using, redirect our briefing document. This effort should get underway no later than early summer so that we are not pressed for time when we need to be getting it off to the printer.

Finally, as discussed over dinner while on the trip: Remember that in the District the answer is either yes or no; stop when you are winning; never ever interrupt those with whom you are meeting; whatever you state, state it in the positive; never say anything bad about anyone else; stay on track and on point; and protect your credibility. Overall, we done GOOD.

Remaining Assignments:

1. Debbie Felker: Add Mike Hickey and Eric Hansen at the Office of Management and Budget to the distribution list for the *Program Director's Update* document and send same to them by e-mail.
2. John Shields/Tom Pitts/et al.: Provide a one page document regarding Program funding to Bennett Raley that he can use in dialogue with Lynn Scarlett and Craig Manson.

3. Sherm Hoskins/Robert King: Gather and forward to the Recovery Program Director and Management Committee Chairman any copies of letters that were copied to UT DWR Director Bob Morgan in response to his letter of February 24th to the directors of the departments of natural resources and game and fish agencies in the eight-state region encompassed by USFWS Region 6.
4. Draft an appropriate letter addressed to the Secretary of the Interior to be circulated among our Congressional Delegation members reminding the Secretary of her commitment to the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program through the end of fiscal year 2013 as embodied in the Extension of the Cooperative Agreement and requesting the requisite “recovery” funding for USFWS participation in the Program be included in the President’s Fiscal Year 2006 budget. The letter should be drafted in the very near future and we should initiate our requests to sign the letter to each Congressional office representing Colorado, Utah and Wyoming. A cover letter should also be prepared that establishes the need for the joint letter, its anticipated effect and the benefits to each office of sending same (chiefly, that we won’t be seeking their support for restoring funding (read “write-in”) to a prior fiscal year’s level).

Appended Materials:

The joint House delegation and Senate delegation letters, as circulated in response to our group’s request, are attached.

The letter sent by House Resources Committee Ranking Member Nick Rahall to House Interior Approps. Subcommittee Chairman Taylor on March 2nd, obtained by our group on March 12th, is attached.

One of each of the letters sent by the four Governors is attached. Each Governor sent at least four letters to the appropriations subcommittees.

A spontaneous photograph from the Congressional Staff Appreciation luncheon is attached.

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 23, 2004

The Honorable David Hobson, Chairman
The Honorable Peter J. Visclosky, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
2362 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Hobson and Ranking Member Visclosky:

We are writing to request your support for an appropriation in fiscal year 2005 of \$5,234,000 to the Bureau of Reclamation within the budget line item entitled "Endangered Species Recovery Implementation Program" for the Upper Colorado Region. The President's recommended budget for FY 2005 includes this line-item amount. Of that amount, the sum of \$4,008,000 for the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program (Upper Basin Program); \$691,000 for the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program (San Juan Program) and \$535,000 for Fish and Wildlife Management and Development.

These cooperative programs involving the States of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming, Indian tribes, federal agencies and water, power and environmental interests are ongoing in the Upper Colorado River and San Juan River Basins and have as their objective recovering endangered fish species while water development proceeds in compliance with the Endangered Species Act, state water law and interstate river compacts.

Reclamation initiatives that will move forward with the provision of this funding and the substantial non-federal cost sharing being contributed will include construction of fish passage structures at the Grand Valley Project and Price-Stubb diversion dams on the Colorado River near Grand Junction, Colorado. Fish passage will provide access to an additional 50 miles of historic habitat upstream of these dams. Floodplain restoration activities will continue at high-priority sites and is especially important for the survival of the razorback sucker species. Screening of existing diversion canals will proceed at the Redlands Water and Power Company and Bureau of Reclamation-constructed Grand Valley Project facilities and are needed to prevent endangered fish from being drawn out of the river and into canal and power plant intake structures. The requested funding for the San Juan River Recovery Program will be used for program management, propagation facilities, stocking efforts, nonnative management efforts and construction of a fish screen in the Hogback Irrigation Project canal. These projects are key components of the ongoing capital construction efforts associated with these two programs.

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Substantial non-federal cost sharing funds are provided by the four states, power users, and water users in support of these recovery programs. Public Law 106-392, as amended by P.L. 107-375, authorized the Federal Government to provide up to \$46 Million of cost sharing for these two ongoing recovery programs' remaining capital construction projects. The four participating states are contributing \$17 Million and \$17 Million is being contributed from revenues derived from the sale of Colorado River Storage Project (CRSP) hydroelectric power.

Additional hatchery facilities to produce endangered fish for stocking, restoring floodplain habitat and fish passage, regulating and supplying instream habitat flows, installing diversion canal screens to prevent fish entrapment and controlling nonnative fish populations are key components of the capital construction efforts. These facts demonstrate the strong commitment and effective partnerships that are present in both of these successful programs.

The undersigned continue to believe that this Subcommittee's assistance in the past has similarly been a major factor in the success of these multi-state, multi-agency programs in progressing towards recovery of the endangered fish in the Upper Colorado and San Juan River Basin while necessary water use and development activities are occurring. The help of the Subcommittee is needed again this year to ensure that Reclamation is provided with adequate funding for these vitally important programs. We are thankful for your past support and look forward to continuing to work with you in the future.

Sincerely,

Alan Curre

Jim Matton

Bob GSE

Barbara Cuhia

Marilyn Musgrave

Bob Bump
Swind

Ma Qbedall

Tom Tande

Steven Pearce

Daria Butek
Feather 2/15

Tom C. Dase

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 23, 2004

The Honorable Charles H. Taylor, Chairman
The Honorable Norman D. Dicks, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
B-308 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Taylor and Ranking Member Dicks:

We are writing to request your support and assistance in continued funding for the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program and the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program. These cooperative programs involving the States of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming, Indian tribes, federal agencies and water, power and environmental interests are ongoing in the Upper Colorado River Basin and have as their objective recovering four species of endangered fish while water development proceeds in compliance with the Endangered Species Act, state law, and interstate compacts. We respectfully request support and action by the Subcommittee that will provide the following:

1. The appropriation of \$691,000 in "recovery" funds (Ecological Services Activity; Endangered Species Subactivity; Recovery Element; Colorado Fish Project) to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) for fiscal year 2005 to allow FWS' Region 6 to meet its funding commitment to the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program. This is the level of funding appropriated in fiscal years 2003 and 2004 for this program. Funding will be used for FWS' program and data management costs, estimating the abundance of fish populations, evaluating stocking and monitoring fish and habitat response to recovery actions.

2. The allocation of \$444,000 in appropriated base operation and maintenance funds ("Fisheries Activity; Hatchery O&M Subactivity") to support the current operation of the FWS' Ouray National Fish Hatchery in Utah for fiscal year 2005.

3. The allocation of \$167,000 in "recovery" funds for the San Juan River Basin

Recovery Implementation Program to the FWS for fiscal year 2005 to meet FWS' Region

2 expenses associated with program management and implementing the San Juan

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

Program' s actions.

The enactment of Public Law 106-392, as amended by P.L. 107-375, authorized the Federal Government to provide up to \$46 Million of cost sharing for these two ongoing recovery programs' remaining capital construction projects. Additional hatchery facilities to produce endangered fish for stocking, restoring floodplain habitat and fish passage, regulating and supplying instream habitat flows, installing diversion canal screens to prevent fish entrapment and controlling nonnative fish populations are key components of the capital construction efforts. The four participating states are contributing \$17 Million and \$17 Million is being contributed from revenues derived from the sale of Colorado River Storage Project (CRSP) hydroelectric power. Subsection 3(c) of P.L 106-392 authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to accept up to \$17 Million of contributed funds from Colorado, Wyoming, Utah and New Mexico, and to expend such contributed funds as if appropriated for that purpose. These facts demonstrate the strong commitment and effective partnerships that are present in both of these successful programs.


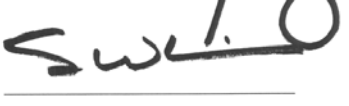
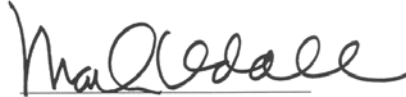
The undersigned continue to believe that this Subcommittee' s assistance in the past has similarly been a major factor in the success of these multi-state, multi-agency programs in progressing towards recovery of the endangered fish in the Upper Colorado and San Juan River Basin while necessary water use and development activities are occurring. The help of the Subcommittee is critically needed and necessary to ensure the FWS is provided with adequate funding for these vitally important programs. We request that report language be included in the Subcommittee' s report directing the FWS to expend the funds as requested above.

We are thankful for your past support and look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,





Barbara Culin

Jon Tando

Marilyn Musgrave

Steven Pearce

Dana DeLoe

Von O'Donnell

Patricia A. Is

ROBERT F. BENNETT
UTAH

COMMITTEES
APPROPRIATIONS
BANKING, HOUSING, AND
URBAN AFFAIRS
JOINT ECONOMIC
SMALL BUSINESS
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4403
(202) 224-5444

March 26, 2004

The Honorable Pete V. Domenici, Chairman
The Honorable Harry Reid, Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

- STATE OFFICES:
- WALLACE BENNETT FEDERAL BUILDING
125 SOUTH STATE, SUITE 4225
SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84138-1188
(801) 524-5333
 - FEDERAL BUILDING
324 25TH STREET, SUITE 1410
OGDEN, UT 84401-2310
(801) 825-5878
 - OLD COURT HOUSE BUILDING
51 SOUTH UNIVERSITY AVENUE, SUITE 310
PROVO, UT 84601-4424
(801) 379-2525
 - FEDERAL BUILDING
198 EAST TABERNACLE, SUITE 42
ST. GEORGE, UT 84770-3474
(435) 628-6514
 - 2390 WEST HIGHWAY 58
SUITE 4B
CEDAR CITY, UT 84720-2686
(435) 868-1335

Dear Mr. Chairman and Senator Reid:

We are writing to request your support for an appropriation in fiscal year 2005 of \$5,234,000 to the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) within the budget line item entitled "Endangered Species Recovery Implementation Program" for the Upper Colorado Region. The President's recommended budget for FY 2005 includes this line-item amount. Of that amount, the sum of \$4,008,000 for the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program (Upper Basin Program); \$691,000 for the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program (San Juan Program); and \$535,000 for Fish and Wildlife Management and Development.

These cooperative programs involving the States of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming; Indian tribes; federal agencies; and water, power, and environmental interests are ongoing in the Upper Colorado River and San Juan River Basins. Their objective is to recover endangered fish species while water development proceeds in compliance with the Endangered Species Act, state water law and interstate river compacts.

Reclamation initiatives that would move forward with the provision of this funding and the substantial non-federal cost sharing being contributed would include construction of fish passage structures at the Grand Valley Project and Price-Stubb diversion dams on the Colorado River near Grand Junction, Colorado. Fish passage would provide access to an additional 50 miles of historic habitat upstream of these dams. Floodplain restoration activities would continue at high-priority sites and will be especially important for the survival of the razorback sucker species. Screening of existing diversion canals would proceed at the Redlands Water and Power Company and Bureau of Reclamation-constructed Grand Valley Project facilities and where they are needed to prevent endangered fish from being drawn out of the river and into canal and power plant intake structures. The requested funding for the San Juan River Recovery Program would be used for program management, propagation facilities, stocking efforts, nonnative management efforts and construction of a fish screen in the Hogback Irrigation Project canal. These projects are key components of the ongoing capital construction efforts associated with these two programs.

Substantial non-federal cost sharing funds are provided by the four states, power users, and water users in support of the recovery programs. Public Law 106-392, as amended by P.L. 107-375, authorized the Federal Government to provide up to \$46 million of cost sharing for these two ongoing recovery programs' remaining capital construction projects. The four participating states are contributing \$17 million, and \$17 million is being contributed from revenues derived from the sale of Colorado River Storage Project (CRSP) hydroelectric power. Additional hatchery facilities to produce endangered fish for stocking, restoring floodplain habitat and fish passage, regulating and supplying instream habitat flows, installing diversion canal screens to prevent fish entrapment, and controlling nonnative fish populations are key components of the capital construction efforts. These facts demonstrate the strong commitment and effective partnerships that are present in both of these successful programs.

The undersigned continue to believe that this subcommittee's assistance in the past has similarly been a major factor in the success of these multi-state, multi-agency programs in progressing toward recovery of the endangered fish in the Upper Colorado and San Juan River Basin while necessary water use and development activities are occurring. The help of the subcommittee is needed again this year to ensure that BOR is provided with adequate funding for these vitally important programs. We are thankful for your past support and look forward to continuing to work with you in the future.

Sincerely,

Robert F. Bennett

Chris Hatch

Wayne Allard

Jim

ROBERT F. BENNETT

UTAH

COMMITTEES:

APPROPRIATIONS

BANKING, HOUSING, AND
URBAN AFFAIRS

JOINT ECONOMIC

SMALL BUSINESS

GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4403

(202) 224-5444

March 26, 2004

The Honorable Conrad Burns, Chairman
The Honorable Byron Dorgan, Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Interior and Related Agencies
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman and Senator Dorgan:

We are writing to request your support and assistance in continued funding for the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program and the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program. These cooperative programs involving the States of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming; Indian tribes; federal agencies; and water, power and environmental interests are ongoing in the Upper Colorado River Basin. Their objective is to recover four species of endangered fish while water development proceeds in compliance with the Endangered Species Act, state law, and interstate compacts. We respectfully request support and action by the subcommittee for the following:

1. The appropriation of \$691,000 in "recovery" funds (Ecological Services Activity; Endangered Species Subactivity; Recovery Element; Colorado Fish Project) to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) for fiscal year 2005 to allow FWS' Region 6 to meet its funding commitment to the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program. This is the level of funding appropriated in fiscal years 2003 and 2004 for this program. Funding would be used for FWS' program and data management costs, estimating the abundance of fish populations, evaluating stocking, and monitoring fish and habitat response to recovery actions.

2. The allocation of \$444,000 in appropriated base operation and maintenance funds ("Fisheries Activity; Hatchery O&M Subactivity") to support the current operation of the FWS' Ouray National Fish Hatchery in Utah for fiscal year 2005.

3. The allocation of \$167,000 in "recovery" funds for the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program to the FWS for fiscal year 2005 to meet FWS' Region 2 expenses associated with program management and implementing the San Juan Program's actions.

The enactment of Public Law 106-392, as amended by P.L. 107-375, authorized the Federal Government to provide up to \$46 million of cost sharing for these two ongoing recovery programs' remaining capital construction projects. Additional hatchery facilities to produce

STATE OFFICES:

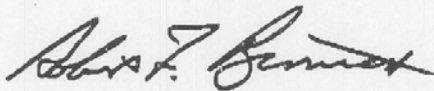
- WALLACE BENNETT FEDERAL BUILDING
125 SOUTH STATE, SUITE 4226
SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84138-1188
(801) 524-5833
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CEDAR CITY, UT 84720-2688
(435) 865-1336

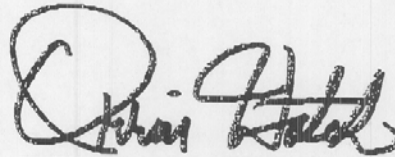
endangered fish for stocking, restoring floodplain habitat and fish passage, regulating and supplying instream habitat flows, installing diversion canal screens to prevent fish entrapment, and controlling nonnative fish populations are key components of the capital construction efforts. The four participating states are contributing \$17 million and \$17 million is being contributed from revenues derived from the sale of Colorado River Storage Project (CRSP) hydroelectric power. Subsection 3(c) of P.L. 106-392 authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to accept up to \$17 million of contributed funds from Colorado, Wyoming, Utah and New Mexico, and to expend such contributed funds as if appropriated for that purpose. These facts demonstrate the strong commitment and effective partnerships that are present in both of these successful programs.

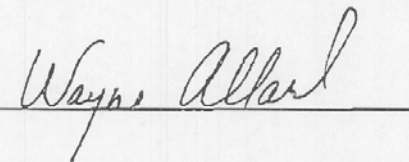
The undersigned continue to believe that this subcommittee's assistance in the past has similarly been a major factor in the success of these multi-state, multi-agency programs in progressing toward recovery of the endangered fish in the Upper Colorado and San Juan River Basin while necessary water use and development activities are occurring. The help of the subcommittee is critically needed and necessary to ensure the FWS is provided with adequate funding for these vitally important programs. We request that report language be included in the subcommittee's report directing the FWS to expend the funds as requested above.

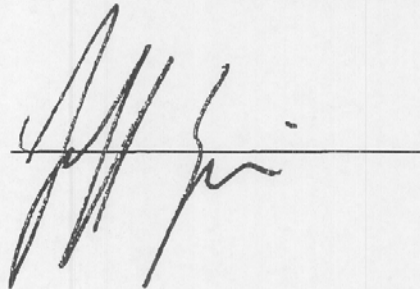
We are thankful for your past support and look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,









STATE OF COLORADO

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

136 State Capitol
Denver, Colorado 80203-1792
Phone (303) 866-2471



March 2, 2004

Bill Owens
Governor

The Honorable Pete V. Domenici, Chairman
The Honorable Harry Reid, Ranking Member
Energy and Water Development Subcommittee
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
127 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Domenici and Senator Reid:

The State of Colorado seeks your support once again this year for the funding necessary to continue the very successful endangered species recovery effort being carried out in the Upper Colorado River Basin. In particular, I request your support for an appropriation of \$5,234,000 to the Bureau of Reclamation for the budget item entitled "Endangered Species Recovery Implementation Program" for the Upper Colorado River Basin as recommended by the President's budget for fiscal year 2005. This particular item is divided as follows: \$4,008,000 for the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program; \$691,000 for the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program and \$535,000 for Fish and Wildlife Management and Development.

These recovery programs work through the strong partnership established between the States of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming, Indian tribes, water and power developers, environmental interests and federal agencies. They are charged with the mission of recovering endangered fish while allowing ongoing water development, all in compliance with the Endangered Species Act. Endangered fish recovery efforts have been able to proceed while municipal and agricultural water users have put to beneficial use 1.7 million acre-feet of water constituting 756 projects. These projects have relied on the Recovery Programs as regulatory compliance for the Endangered Species Act, and all of this activity has been accomplished without a single lawsuit.

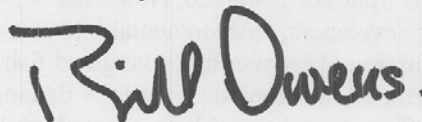
The Honorable Pete V. Domenici, Chairman
March 2, 2004
Page 2

This year, as in years past, this appropriation to the Bureau of Reclamation has funded various capital projects dedicated to the fish recovery effort, including fish passages, screening for diversion canals, and construction of hatchery facilities. The FY 2005 appropriation will allow construction of fish passage structures on the Colorado River near Grand Junction, Colorado, to provide access to 50 miles of historic habitat for the endangered fishes. Additionally, the appropriation will fund diversion canal screening to prevent endangered fish from being drawn out of the river and into canal and power plant intake structures at the Redlands Water and Power Company and Bureau of Reclamation-constructed facilities for the Grand Valley Project. The San Juan Program will dedicate funding to program management, propagation facilities, native fish stocking, nonnative fish management and fish screen construction

In addition to the contributions to the fish recovery effort by the Federal Government, the four states, power users and water users have joined together to contribute non-federal cost-sharing funds to assure success of the Recovery Program. Public Law 106-392, as amended by P.L. 107-375, authorizes the Federal Government to provide up to \$46 million of cost share funds for the capital construction projects for both the Upper Colorado and the San Juan Programs. The four participating states contribute \$17 million and the Colorado River Storage Project (CRSP) contributes \$17 million in hydroelectric power revenues.

Please accept my thanks to you and to your Subcommittee for your support of these Programs in the past. On behalf of the citizens of Colorado, I ask for your continued support for funding of the Bureau of Reclamation so that these partners can work toward the ultimate goal of recovering and delisting these endangered fish species.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Owens." The signature is stylized with a large, bold "B" and "O".

Bill Owens
Governor



STATE OF UTAH

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
SALT LAKE CITY
84114-0601OLENE S. WALKER
GOVERNORGAYLE F. MCKEACHNIE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

February 16, 2004

The Honorable David Hobson, Chair
The Honorable Peter J. Visclosky, Ranking Minority Member
Energy and Water Development Subcommittee
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
2362 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Chairman Hobson and Representative Visclosky:

I write to request your support for an appropriation in fiscal year 2005 of \$5,234,000 to the Bureau of Reclamation within the budget line item entitled "Endangered Species Recovery Implementation Program" for the Upper Colorado River Region. The President's recommended budget for FY 2005 includes this line-item amount. Utah respectfully requests the designation of \$4,008,000 for the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program, \$691,000 for the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program and \$535,000 for Fish and Wildlife Management and Development, the total of these summing to the requested appropriation amount of \$5,234,000 for fiscal year 2005.

These highly successful cooperative programs are ongoing partnerships among the states of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming, Indian tribes, federal agencies and water, power and environmental interests. The programs' objectives are to recover endangered fish species while water development proceeds in compliance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973. They reflect the proper approach to providing endangered species conservation and recovery within the framework of the existing federal Endangered Species Act, while concurrently resolving critical conflicts between endangered species recovery and the development and use of Compact-apportioned water resources in the Upper Colorado River Basin region of the Intermountain West.

The requested FY 2005 appropriation will allow construction of fish passage structures at the Grand Valley Project and Price-Stubb diversion dams on the Colorado River near Grand Junction, Colorado. Fish passage will provide access to an additional 50 miles of historic habitat upstream of these dams. Floodplain restoration activities, including levee removal, will continue at high-priority sites and is especially important for the survival of the razorback sucker species. Screening of existing diversion canals, needed to prevent endangered fish from being drawn out of the river and into canal and power plant intake structures, will proceed at the Redlands Water

Page 2

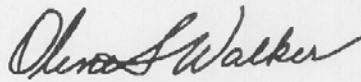
The Honorable David Hobson, Chair
The Honorable Peter J. Visclosky, Ranking Minority Member
February 16, 2004

and Power Company and Bureau of Reclamation-constructed Grand Valley Project facilities. The requested funding for the San Juan River Recovery Program will be used for program management, propagation facilities, stocking efforts, nonnative management efforts and construction of a fish screen in the Hogback Irrigation Project canal. Additional hatchery facilities to produce endangered fish for stocking, restoring floodplain habitat and fish passage, regulating and supplying instream habitat flows, installing diversion canal screens to prevent fish entrapment and controlling nonnative fish populations are key components of the capital construction efforts ongoing in both programs.

Substantial non-federal cost-sharing funds are provided by the four states, power users, and water users in support of these recovery programs. Public Law 106-392, as amended by PL 107-375, authorizes the Federal Government to provide up to \$46 million of cost sharing for these two ongoing recovery programs' remaining capital construction projects. The four participating states are contributing \$17 million, and \$17 million is being contributed from revenues derived from the sale of Colorado River Storage Project (CRSP) hydroelectric power. These facts demonstrate the strong commitment and effective partnerships that are present in both of these successful programs.

The past support and assistance of your Subcommittee has greatly facilitated the success of these multi-state, multi-agency programs. On behalf of the citizens of Utah, I gratefully thank you for that support and request the Subcommittee's assistance for fiscal year 2005 funding to ensure the Bureau of Reclamation's continuing financial participation in these vitally important programs.

Sincerely,



Olene S. Walker
Governor

OSW/RLM

cc: Representative Chris Cannon
Representative Jim Matheson
Representative Rob Bishop
Governor Dave Freudenthal
Governor Bill Owens
Governor Bill Richardson

DAVE FREUDENTHAL
GOVERNOR

THE STATE



OF WYOMING

STATE CAPITOL
CHEYENNE, WY 82002

Office of the Governor

February 25, 2004

The Honorable Charles H. Taylor, Chairman
The Honorable Norman D. Dicks, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior and Related Agencies
House Appropriations Committee
United States House of Representatives
B-308 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-6023

Dear Chairman Taylor and Representative Dicks:

I am writing to request your support and assistance in insuring continued funding for the Recovery Implementation Program for Endangered Fish Species in the Upper Colorado River Basin (Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program) and the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program. These cooperative programs involving the States of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming, Indian tribes, federal agencies and water, power and environmental interests are ongoing in the Upper Colorado River Basin and have as their objective recovering four species of endangered fish while water development proceeds in compliance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973, state law, and interstate compacts. Wyoming respectfully requests support and action by the Subcommittee that will provide the following:

1. The appropriation of \$691,000 in "recovery" funds (Ecological Services Activity; Endangered Species Subactivity; Recovery Element; Colorado Fish Project) to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) for fiscal year 2005 to allow FWS's Region 6 to meet its funding commitment to the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program. This is the level of funding appropriated in fiscal years 2003 and 2004 for this program. Funding will be used for FWS' program and data management costs, estimating the abundance of fish populations, evaluating stocking and monitoring fish and habitat response to recovery actions.
2. The allocation of \$444,000 in appropriated base operation and maintenance funds ("Fisheries Activity; Hatchery O&M Subactivity") to support the current operation of the FWS' Ouray National Fish Hatchery in Utah for fiscal year 2005.
3. The allocation of \$167,000 in "recovery" funds for the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program to the FWS for fiscal year 2005 to meet FWS's Region 2 expenses associated with program management and implementing the San Juan Program's actions.

The Honorable Charles H. Taylor, Chairman
The Honorable Norman D. Dicks, Ranking Minority Member
February 25, 2004
Page 2

The enactment of Public Law 106-392, as amended by P.L. 107-375, authorized the Federal Government to provide up to \$46 Million of cost sharing for these two ongoing recovery programs' remaining capital construction projects. Additional hatchery facilities, restoring floodplain habitat and fish passage, regulating and supplying instream habitat flows, installing diversion canal screens and controlling nonnative fish populations are key components of the capital construction efforts. The four participating states are contributing \$17 Million and \$17 Million is being contributed from revenues derived from the sale of Colorado River Storage Project (CRSP) hydroelectric power. Subsection 3(c) of P.L 106-392 authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to accept up to \$17 Million of contributed funds from Colorado, Wyoming, Utah and New Mexico, and to expend such contributed funds as if appropriated for that purpose. These facts demonstrate the strong commitment and effective partnerships that are present in both of these successful programs.

The above line item funding requests for the FWS are supported by the State of Wyoming and each of the participating States engaged in these Programs. The requested federal appropriations are critically important and will be used in concert with other federal and non-federal cost-sharing funding. The support of your Subcommittee in past years is acknowledged and appreciated and has been a major factor in the success of these multi-state, multi-agency programs in progressing towards endangered fish species recovery in the Upper Colorado and San Juan River Basins while necessary water use and development activities are occurring. We again request the Subcommittee's assistance to ensure that the FWS is provided with adequate funding for these vitally important programs.

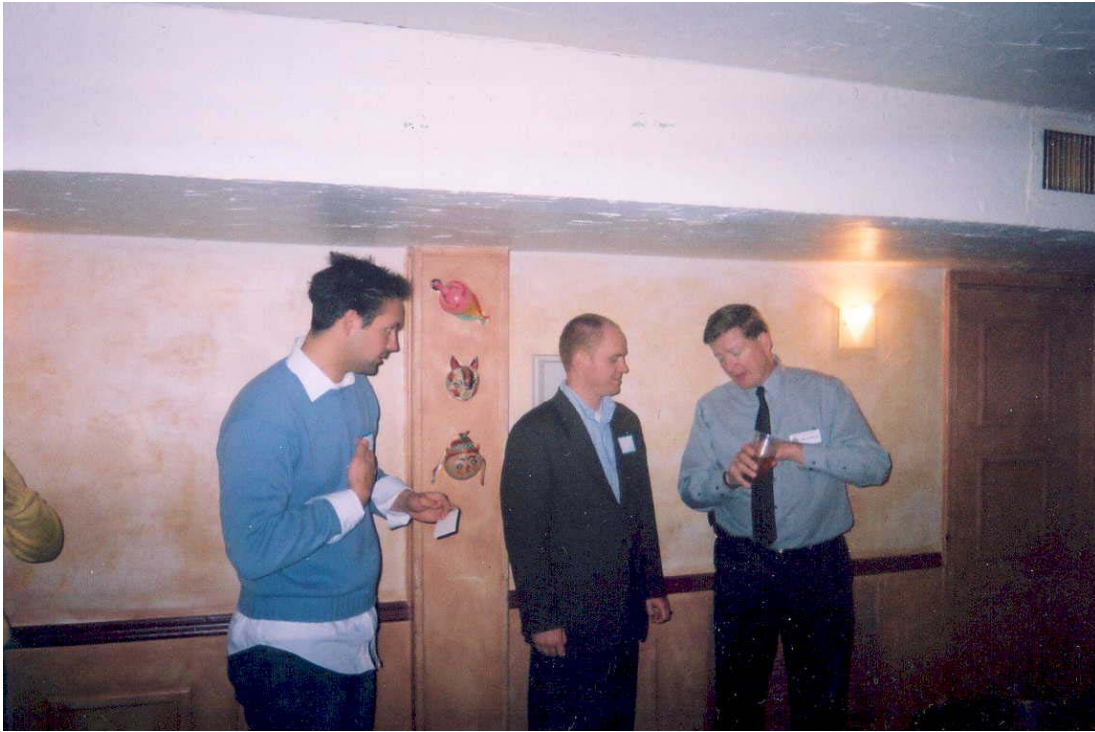
Best regards,



Dave Freudenthal
Governor

DF:ptt:jws

cc: Representative Barbara Cubin
Governor Bill Owens
Governor Bill Richardson
Governor Olene Walker



March 12, 2004 Congressional Staff Luncheon at the Tortilla Coast Restaurant, 400 First Street, S.E., Washington, D.C.;
Left to Right: Robert Cushing (Rep. Heather Wilson), Colin Hunter (Rep. Steve Pearce) and John Shields, Chairman, Management
Committee, Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program. Photograph by Tom Blickensderfer.